

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-08 PM-05 L-03 AID-05
ACDA-12 OMB-01 SS-15 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10
NSAE-00 /086 W
-----050391 161703Z /43

R 151650Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY QUITO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8808
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
SECDEF WASHDC
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS CZ

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 4888

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, EC
SUBJECT: POSSIBLE PAY-OFFS ON SALE OF RAPIER ANTI-AIRCRAFT
MISSILE SYSTEM TO ECUADOR

REFS: (A) STATE 173328; (B) QUITO 4494; (C) QUITO 1342

1. EMBASSY SIMPLY HAS NO WAY OF PROVING OR DISPROVING OLMEDO'S
ASSERTION THAT THE BRITISH ARE OFFERING PAY-OFFS TO PROMOTE
THE SALE OF THE RAPIER ANTI-AIRCRAFT MISSILE TO ECUADOR.
OLMEDO IS AN HONORABLE MAN WHO HAS DEALT WITH US FAIRLY AND
OPENLY IN THE PAST. WE HAVE NO REASON TO BELIEVE THAT HE WOULD
GRATUITOUSLY MISLEAD US IN THIS INSTANCE. ON THE OTHER HAND,
HE COULD HAVE A WIDE VARIETY OF PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL MOTIVES
FOR RAISING THIS SUBJECT WITH US IN THE WAY HE DID.

2. IN THE ABSENCE OF CONCRETE INFORMATION ON PAY-OFFS THE
EMBASSY DOUBTS THE EFFICACY OF THE USG RAISING THE ISSUE WITH
THE U.K. AS WE NOTED IN REF (C), PAY-OFFS ARE AN ACCEPTED PART
OF DOING BUSINESS HERE, AND ECUADOREANS, BOTH WITHIN AND WITHOUT
THE MILITARY, SIMPLY ASSUME THAT A MAJOR MILITARY PURCHASE
IS ACCOMPANIED BY PAY-OFFS. UNFORTUNATELY, THIS CYNICISM
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HAS PROBABLY BEEN JUSTIFIED TOO OFTEN IN THE PAST. THE
RESULT IS, HOWEVER, THAT THERE WILL BE SUSPICIONS AND
VIELED ACCUSATIONS OF WRONG-DOING IN ANY SALE OF THE
MAGNITUDE OF THIS ANTI-AIRCRAFT MISSILE DEAL EVEN WHEN THE
SALE IS CLEAN.
CORR

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BRIBERY, MILITARY SALES, ANTIAIRCRAFT GUNS, MISSILES, ALLEGATIONS
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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
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Message ID: acd20773-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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